GAME CREEK

In Port Frederick, on Northeast Shore of Chichagof Island.

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Game Creek is about 7 miles long, from entrance to where it branches off into small tributaries, being a good fishing stream, having a wide bed, with no dams or debris, a number of gravel bars and frequent ripples.

Chums commenced running about June 20 and I have learned that a late run of this same specie and Cohoes is expected late in September and early in October. The stream is usually high at that time and fish go well up to spawn; however, the early run of chums is the largest and best, but the creek was not protected during this early run and skiff netters were dragging at the mouths of the creeks for nearly a week.

Humpbacks commenced going up stream about July 30. They did not play around at the mouth of the stream like the chums, but spawned on lower ripples and did not go nearly so far up; neither were they tormented by trout while spawning, as like the chums.

In observing the spawning of chums I found nearly each one had a trout following. The trout apparently would turn on its side and grab the egg before it could be deposited, which startled the salmon but the trout continued to get the eggs. With a small mesh trout seine the lower part of the stream could be cleared of trout a few days before the first chums commence escaping.

During July, when the water was below the average flow, there were but very few salmon in the stream and those that did enter the creek fell back with the tide, evidently as far as Gott-Heena creek, where the salmon made a splendid escapement.

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When the flow of water became abnormally high the salmon made so much progress that they were well into the stream before the ebb tide, and by August 15 there were about 900 humpbacks going up stream on the night tide. This high water occurred principally during the closed season, from August 11 to August 31, therefore, the percentage of escapement was above the average, as there were approximately only 300 fish caught in this creek all during the season.

After carefully observing the conditions in this territory, I wish to submit a few recommendations for the coming year:

All small bays, sloughs and inlets, from Mission Point, north marker for Gott-Heena Creek, to South marker of Game Creek Bay should be reserved.

The dead line should start at Mission Point, from there to south end of Grave Yard Island, thence to south end of Reef Island and extend to north end of Game Creek Island, thereby protecting the early and best run of chums.

Gott-Heena creek should have a watchman. As there was aplended fishing there on the big flats at night, about ten fishermen camped in Snug Harbor and anchored in Gott Heena creek during the early run of chums.

Herring seine boats should not be allowed to seine inside of the dead line. They catch a large number of salmon and do not put them back, but send them to the fertilizer together with herring. Crab canners and crab fishermen should not be allowed to buy or use hooked salmon during closed season, as there are millions of clams, which is the natural food for crabs, making better and more durable bait.

C. A. Bevans, Stream Watchman.



